

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An organic electroluminescent device comprising:
  - a) an anode and a cathode;
  - b) an electroluminescent medium disposed between the anode and the cathode;
  - c) an adhesion-promoting layer in contact with the cathode and the electroluminescent medium;
  - d) the adhesion-promoting layer has a thickness of between 0.01 to 3.0 nm and comprises at least one metal or metal compound selected from group 1 through group 15 of the Periodic Table of Elements such that the metal has an atomic number of at least 19; and
  - f) the cathode is substantially pure magnesium.
2. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the adhesion-promoting layer includes one or more alkali metals selected from K, Rb, or Cs.
3. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the adhesion-promoting layer includes one or more alkaline earth metals selected from Ca, Sr, or Ba.
4. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the adhesion-promoting layer includes one or more alkali metal compounds wherein the metal includes K, Rb, or Cs.
5. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the adhesion-promoting layer includes one or more alkaline earth metal compounds wherein the metal includes Ca, Sr, or Ba.

6. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the adhesion-promoting layer includes one or more transition metals or transition metal compounds.

7. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 6 wherein the transition metal includes Sb, Ge, Sn, Pb, Ga, Zn, Ni, Pd, Pt, Rh, Ir, Fe, Mn, or Nb.

8. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 6 wherein the transition metal compound includes an oxide of Sb, Ge, Sn, Pb, Ga, Zn, Ni, Pd, Pt, Rh, Ir, Fe, Mn, or Nb.

9. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the adhesion-promoting layer includes one or more rare-earth metals or rare-earth metal compounds.

10. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 9 wherein the rare-earth metal includes La, Ce, Sm, Eu, Tb, Dy, or Yb.

11. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 9 wherein the rare-earth metal compound includes oxides of La, Ce, Sm, Eu, Tb, Dy, or Yb.

12. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the cathode is greater than 99% pure Mg.

13. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the cathode is greater than 99.9% pure Mg.

14. The organic electroluminescent device of claim 1 wherein the cathode is an alloy of Mg and Ag.

- [illegible]